

From: Andrew C. Oliver
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 11:37am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The settlement is deplorable. Microsoft has continued to raise prices as it has become more dominant and has become ever more bold in raising the barriers to market. As both a citizen and a software developer I am appalled by this "slap on the wrist" solution. As a participant in the economy I agree now is NOT the time to split up the company, but a continuance until the economy recovers followed by a sharp and deep cutting penalty (such as splitting up the company) is called for.

Microsoft is not a technology innovator, they are a large trust with deep pockets that buys up or tramples via often illegal agreements such as:

1. "group boycotting" (with ISVs and VARs),
2. Tie-in agreements masked under the guise of new features. If I agree to sell you my house and I'll throw in the house next door and the price has mysteriously doubled from when the house was sold alone, does that qualify as a new property feature?).
3. Allocation of Customers or Markets. (attempts to reach agreements to this effect with Netscape, and Apple)

Regardless of the political positions of the party in power, the LAW should be enforced. This agreement laughs in the face of the rule of law and the DOJ should be ashamed of itself.

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